

REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

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Review Editor

Leg Ulcers: Medical and Surgical Management,

Henry H. Roenigk, Jr., M.D. and Jess R. Young, M.D. Harper & Row, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1975. (265 pp; \$27.50)

This book bridges a gap between two specialties, dermatology and vascular surgery. It presents the kind of information needed by specialists, general practitioners, and students who see and treat ulcerating conditions of the lower extremities.

Ulcerative diseases of the lower extremities are extremely common. This small volume accurately categorizes their pathology, describes their clinical pictures, and gives up-to-date treatment. It is recommended reading and reference for those who treat patients with skin conditions of the feet and legs. The contributors, all from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, are experienced clinicians and their information is to the point without being dogmatic.

A handy classification of ulcerating conditions introduces the text of the book so that it is easy to refer rapidly to a disease entity, to a differential diagnosis, or to a mode of therapy. The spectrum of subjects described reaches from vascular, iatrogenic, metabolic, and neoplastic diseases to fungal and bacterial infections. My only criticism is that the section on chronic, recurrent stasis ulcers is long on office treatment and short on surgical therapy which is dismissed with: "...ligation and stripping of incompetent superficial veins may sometimes help prevent recurrence of edema and ulcers."

Stasis ulceration might also have commanded a more detailed description of pathogenesis. On the other hand, the application of supportive dressings is beautifully described. The work includes extremely valuable photographs and descriptions of dermatologic disorders such as necrotizing vasculitis which might not be readily recognized by the vascular surgeon. The color photographs will be particularly appreciated by those inexperienced in dermatology.

This book is a worthwhile addition and the authors are to be congratulated for their contribution.

Edward W. Friedman, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Brookline, Massachusetts

Immunology in Medical Practice, Geoffrey Taylor, M.D. (Ed.). W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London, Toronto, 1975. (396 pp; \$28.00; \$28.85 in Canada)

The text of *Immunology in Medical Practice* is choppy and uneven, hardly what one usually expects from an all-British group of authors. Referencing is uneven as well; some contributors list only major reviews while others provide detailed citations. Some, in poor taste, fail to go beyond journals published in Great Britain.

In short, this book is dated and does not offer any of the excitement of clinical (or basic science) immunology of the 1970s.

Kirk D. Wuepper, M.D.
Portland, Oregon

Skin Tumors of the Foot: Diagnosis and Treatment, Morton D. Fielding, D.P.M. (ed). Futura Publishing Company, Mount Kisco, N.Y., 1974. (240 pp; \$24.50)

This 240-page monograph is intended to "assist the podiatrist and other clinicians in the clinical diagnosis and management of skin tumors as they affect the foot." Since the feet represent approximately 2% of the skin surface and the editor feels that more than 2% of skin tumors are present on the feet, the need for a volume such as this does seem real. This text, however, does not completely or adequately fill the need.

There are five sections to the book. With few exceptions, most notably the chapter on melanoma, the information presented is shallow, conveying little more than an introduction to a topic or entity. Consultation of a more definitive text would be required to gain any reasonable degree of information about a majority of the topics presented. Most, but not all, of the four pages of color plates are satisfactory. However, the multiple black and white photographs are of inferior quality because of poor focus, overexposure, or poor reproduction in printing, thereby rarely even adding a visual dimension to the mediocre text.

Little is presented about the treatment and management of many of the entities and that which is noted is primarily anecdotal, as judged by the references. Taken at face value, several thera-